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ABSTRACT

Recognizing the need to inform the public about newly issued folk recordings and audio tapes, the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress initiates this annual list of selected titles, chosen by a panel of distinguished experts from a compilation of 1983 releases prepared by the Center staff. Although not a comprehensive list, it is intended to provide a usable guide to important resources for educators, librarians, and all those interested in currently available sound recordings of American Folk music and traditional verbal arts. The titles listed here feature cultural traditions found within the United States, emphasize "root traditions" over popular adaptations of traditional materials, are conveniently available to American purchasers, and are generally well annotated with liner notes or accompanying booklets relating the recordings to their performers, their communities, genres, styles, and other pertinent information. Publishers' names and addresses of listed recordings are given, as well as major mail-order sources for folk recordings. (BZ)

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AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC AND FOLKLORE RECORDINGS 1983
A SELECTED LIST

Selection Panel

Norman Cohen
Executive Secretary, John Edwards Memorial Foundation

William Ivey
Director, Country Music Foundation

Anthony Seeger
Director, Archives of Traditional Music, Indiana University

Richard K. Spottswood
Washington, D.C., folk and ethnic music specialist

Jeff Todd Titon
Tufts University; Record Review Editor, *Journal of American Folklore*

American Folklife Center
The Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540

INTRODUCTION

The sounds of America's traditional cultures have been captured on published sound recordings for over sixty years. Public institutions such as the Library of Congress have helped document the wealth of folk music and spoken arts in the United States. The Library's landmark LP record series has helped stimulate awareness of our country's rich folk heritage, but most published recordings of America's traditional music have been issued by commercial audio recording companies.

Down-home country, blues, and foreign-language records for America's regional and ethnic communities were first produced in quantity during the 1920s. Today's large companies concentrate their efforts on popular music for the high-volume mass market, leaving the publication of traditional materials to smaller concerns with more limited distribution networks. New recordings of folk traditions are carried in comparatively few stores and catalogs, often remaining undiscovered by many students of culture, librarians, and lovers of music to whom they may be of interest. Consequently, there has been a decline in the number of folk recordings issued in the past decade, and a concomitant reduction of support and encouragement for those performers who preserve our country's living folk heritage.

Recognizing the need to inform the public about newly issued folk records and audio tapes, the American Folklife Center is pleased to initiate this annual list of selected titles, chosen by a panel of distinguished experts from a compilation of 1983 releases prepared by the Center staff. It is by no means a comprehensive list, but is intended to provide a usable guide to important resources for educators, librarians, and all those interested in currently available sound recordings of American folk music and traditional verbal arts. The titles listed here feature cultural traditions found within the United States, emphasize "root traditions" over popular adaptations of traditional materials, are conveniently available to American purchasers, and are generally well annotated with liner notes or accompanying booklets relating the recordings to the performers, their communities, genres, styles, and other pertinent information.

This is the first issue of what we hope will be a continuing annual series. This project was conceived after a 1982 conference on the recording of traditional music, sponsored by the Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, made it clear that folk music releases would dwindle if present economic trends continued.

We hope that future lists will include more recordings of traditional spoken arts, a wider range of America's ethnic traditions, and more records and tapes of American folk music issued abroad and distributed in the United States. To suggest suitable 1984 releases for consideration by next year's selection panel, please write to: Annual Recordings List, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

ANGLO-AMERICAN

Appalachia—The Old Traditions; Blue Ridge Mountain Music from Virginia and North Carolina, Volume 2. Home-Made Music LP002. Anglo-American ballads, songs, and tunes recorded in the field by Mike Yates in 1979, 1980, and 1983. Unaccompanied songs and riddle-telling, fiddle, "clawhammer"-style banjo playing, and string-band music. Jacket notes and 4-page booklet by Mike Yates.

Dock Boggs; His Original Recordings. Folkways RBF 654. Reissues of 1927 recordings by the western Virginia singer and banjoist.

Fiddlin John; John Johnson from Clay County, West Virginia. Augusta Heritage Records 001. Old-time fiddling. Jacket notes by the artist and Michael Kline.

Fiddling Doc Roberts; Old Time Tunes. County 412. Reissues of 78-rpm recordings, 1928–1934, by this influential northeastern Kentucky fiddler and string-band leader. Brief jacket notes.

The Hicks Family; A Cumberland Singing Tradition. Tennessee Folklore Society TFS 104. Traditional songs and ballads by Dee and Delta Hicks and family, recorded by Bobby Fulcher and Charles Wolfe. With a 16-page booklet by Charles Wolfe.

Historical Ballads of the Tennessee Valley. Tennessee Folklore Society TFS 105. Anthology of previously unpublished field recordings and reissues of older commercial records celebrating the history of the region. With a 24-page booklet by Charles Wolfe.

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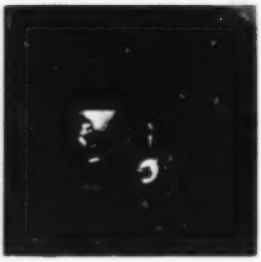


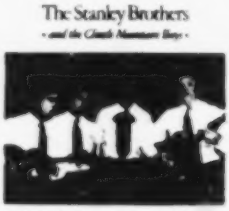
Kentucky Country; Old Time Music from Kentucky, Original 1927-1937 Recordings. Rounder 1037. Produced, edited, and annotated by Charles Wolfe. Reissues of 78-rpm recordings of string-band, fiddle, banjo, and vocal music.

Paul Van Arsdale, Dulcimer Heritage; Traditional Hammered Dulcimer Music from New York State. Folk-Legacy FSA-87. Hammered dulcimer with guitar and piano accompaniment. With a 38-page booklet by Nicholas Hawes. Photos and musical transcriptions.

Rose Maddox and the Vern Williams Band; A Beautiful Bouquet. Arhoolie 5030. Country gospel songs; vocal trios and quartets with string-band backing. Jacket notes by Chris Strachwitz.

New Sounds Ramblin' from Coast to Coast; The Early Days of Bluegrass, Volume 3. Rounder 1015. Anthology of commercial recordings, 1945-1960, which document the spread of bluegrass music beyond the Upper South. Jacket notes and 8-page booklet by Ivan M. Tribe.

Ralph and Carter Stanley, The Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys; the Columbia Sessions, 1949-1950, Volume 2. Rounder 5510. Reissues of influential bluegrass recordings, 1949-1952. Jacket notes by Gary B. Reid and Marian Leighton.



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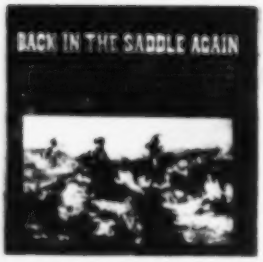

Back in the Saddle Again. New World NW 314/315. A 2-disc anthology of reissues of cowboy and popular "Western" records, 1925–1980. With 4 pages of bound-in notes by Charlie Seemann.

Glenn Ohrlin; The Wild Buckaroo. Rounder 0158. Traditional songs by a working cowboy from Arkansas. Jacket notes and 11-page booklet by the artist. Photos.

Bothered All the Time. Southern Culture Records SC 1703. Field recordings of Afro-American traditional music from Mississippi recorded in 1960 by William Ferris. Includes blues, gospel music, worksongs, and recorded interviews. Jacket notes by William Ferris; inner-sleeve notes by John Barnie.

Cap'n You're So Mean. Rounder 4013. Previously unreleased field recordings of Afro-American songs of protest collected in the southern United States in the 1920s and 1930s by Lawrence Gellert. Brief general notes by Bruce Conforth.

The Fieldstones; Memphis Blues Today! High Water LP 1001. Electric blues and rhythm-and-blues by a contemporary Memphis band. Jacket notes by David Evans.

Ida Goodson, Pensacola Piano; Florida Gulf Coast Blues, Jazz, and Gospel. Florida Folklife Program FFP 104. Solos and jazz-band recordings by Ida Goodson; also recordings of the artist with the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church Choir. With a 4-page booklet by Doris J. Dyen. Photos.

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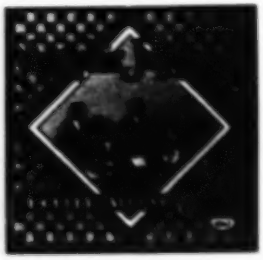
Memphis Jug Band. Yazoo 1067. A 2-disc set of reissues of this important jug band from 78-rpm recordings, 1927–1934. Extensive jacket notes by Bengt Olsson.



Happy in the Service of the Lord; Memphis Gospel Quartet Heritage—the 1980s. High Water LP 1002. Original recordings by 6 Memphis vocal groups, largely without accompaniment. With an 8-page booklet by Kip Lornell. Photos.

Say Amen, Somebody; Original Soundtrack Recording and More. DRG Records SB2L 12584. Contemporary gospel music recorded in live performance for a film by George T. Neirenberg. A 2-disc set; extensive jacket notes by Chris Albertson. Photos.

OTHER ETHNIC TRADITIONS

Canray Fontenot, Joseph and Eraste Carriere; Cajun Fiddle Styles, Volume 1; The Creole Tradition. Arhoolie 5031. Black French music from Louisiana on fiddle and accordion with some vocals. Jacket and insert notes by Michael Doucet and Ann Savoy.

Octa Clark and Hector Duhon, The Dixie Ramblers; Ensemble Encore. Rounder 6011. Traditional Cajun music from South Louisiana. With a 6-page booklet by Barry Jean Ancelet and Nicholas R. Spitzer. Photos.

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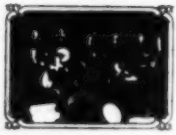
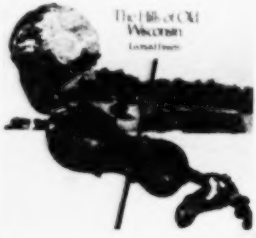
Border Bash: Los Polkeros de Ben Tavera King: Tex-Mex Dance Music, Volume 2. Folkways Records FD 6528. Texas-Mexican dance music from San Antonio. With 6 pages of notes by Rafael Castillo.

Los Hermanos Chavarria/The Chavarria Brothers; Los Trovadores del amanecer de San Antonio, Tejas/Early Recording Stars from San Antonio, Texas: Texas-Mexican Border Music/ Una historia de la frontera, Volume 19. Folklyric 9037. Reissue of recordings, 1930–1937, of ballads and love songs of Texas and Northern Mexico. Vocal solos and duets with violin and guitar. Jacket notes and 7-page booklet by Will Spires.



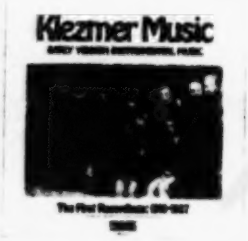
Early Scandinavian Bands and Entertainers. Banjar BR–1840. Scandinavian-American music, originally recorded 1904 to late 1940s, featuring accordion music. Extensive jacket notes by LeRoy Larson. Photos.

Leonard Finseth: The Hills of Old Wisconsin. Banjar LP–BR–1842. Old-time Scandinavian dance music by Norwegian-American fiddler Finseth and local Wisconsin and Minnesota musicians. Jacket notes.



Light Through the Leaves; Traditional Irish Wind Instrumentals. Rounder 6014. Uilleann pipes, flute, and tin-whistle music. Field recordings, 1976–1978. Jacket notes by Mick Moloney; 4-page booklet by Bill Ochs and Mick Moloney.

Klezmer Music; Early Yiddish Instrumental Music, The First Recordings, 1910–1927. Folklyric 9034. Reissues of historic recordings by European-American Jewish bands. Extensive jacket notes by Martin Schwartz.



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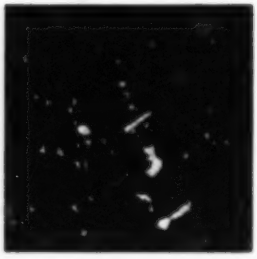
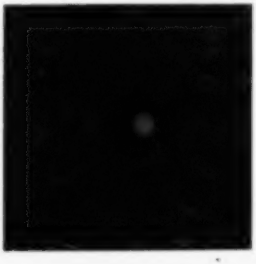
Greek-Oriental; Smyrnaic-Rebetic Songs and Dances: The Golden Years, 1927-1937. Folklyric 9033. Reissues of early recordings of the urban Greek musical traditions of Asia-Minor (Turkey). Although released in the U.S. before World War II, most of the original 78-rpm recordings were made in Athens and Constantinople. Extensive liner notes by Martin Schwartz.



From the Tatra Mountains; Classic Polish-American Recordings from the 1920s. Morning Star Records 45007. Reissues of recordings by Polish-American dance bands, mostly from the Chicago area. Jacket notes by Norm Cohen.

The Badland Singers; Live at United Tribes, Volume 1. Indian House IH 4106. Cassette. Sioux singing group from Brockton, Montana, recorded live at the 10th Anniversary United Tribes Days International Championship Dancing and Singing Contest in Bismarck, North Dakota, September 7-9, 1979. Brief insert notes by Tony Isaacs.



For further listings and reviews of folk records, consult periodicals and journals such as *American Music, Black Sheep Review, Bluegrass Unlimited, Blues Unlimited, Come for to Sing, County Sales Newsletter, Ethnomusicology, JEMF Quarterly, Journal of American Folklore, Living Blues, Old Time Music, Sing Out!*, and *Rockingchair*. In addition, *Folklife and Ethnomusicology Serial Publications in North America* is available at no cost from the Archive of Folk Culture, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

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Publishers of Listed Recordings

Arhoolie Records
10341 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Augusta Heritage Records
Augusta Heritage Arts Workshops
Davis and Elkins College
Elkins, WV 26241

Banjar Records
Box 32164
7440 University Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55432

County Records
Main Street
Floyd, VA 24091

DRG Records Incorporated
157 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Florida Folklife Program
P.O. Box 265
White Springs, FL 32096

Folk-Legacy Records, Inc.
Sharon, CT 06099

Folklyric Records
10341 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Folkways Records and Service Corporation
632 Broadway, 9th fl.
New York, NY 10012

High Water Recording Company
c/o Dr. David Evans, Music Department
Memphis State University
Memphis, TN 38152

Home-Made Music
Topic Records Ltd.
27 Nassington Rd.
London NW3 2TX
ENGLAND

Indian House
Box 472
Taos, NM 87571

Morning Star Records
1375 Crosby Avenue
Bronx, NY 10461

New World Records
701 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10036

Rounder Records
One Camp Road
Cambridge, MA 02140

Southern Culture Records
Center for the Study of Southern Culture
University of Mississippi
University, MS 38677

Tennessee Folklore Society
Box 201
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Yazoo Records
245 Waverly Place
New York, NY 10014

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Major Mail-Order Sources for Folk Recordings

Andy's Front Hall
Drawer A
Voorheesville, NY 12186
(518) 765-4193

County Sales
Box 191
Floyd, VA 24091
(703) 745-2001

Down Home Music Inc.
10341 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(415) 525-1494

Elderly Records
541 East Grand River
P.O. Box 1795
East Lansing, MI
48825-6795
(517) 332-4331

Rooster Blues
2615 N. Wilton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614
(312) 281-3385

Roundup Records
P.O. Box 154
North Cambridge, MA
02140
(617) 354-0700

For a more complete guide to folk record labels and distributors write for the reference aid *Record Companies in North America Specializing in Folk Music, Folklore and Ethnomusicology* available at no cost from the Archive of Folk Culture, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.